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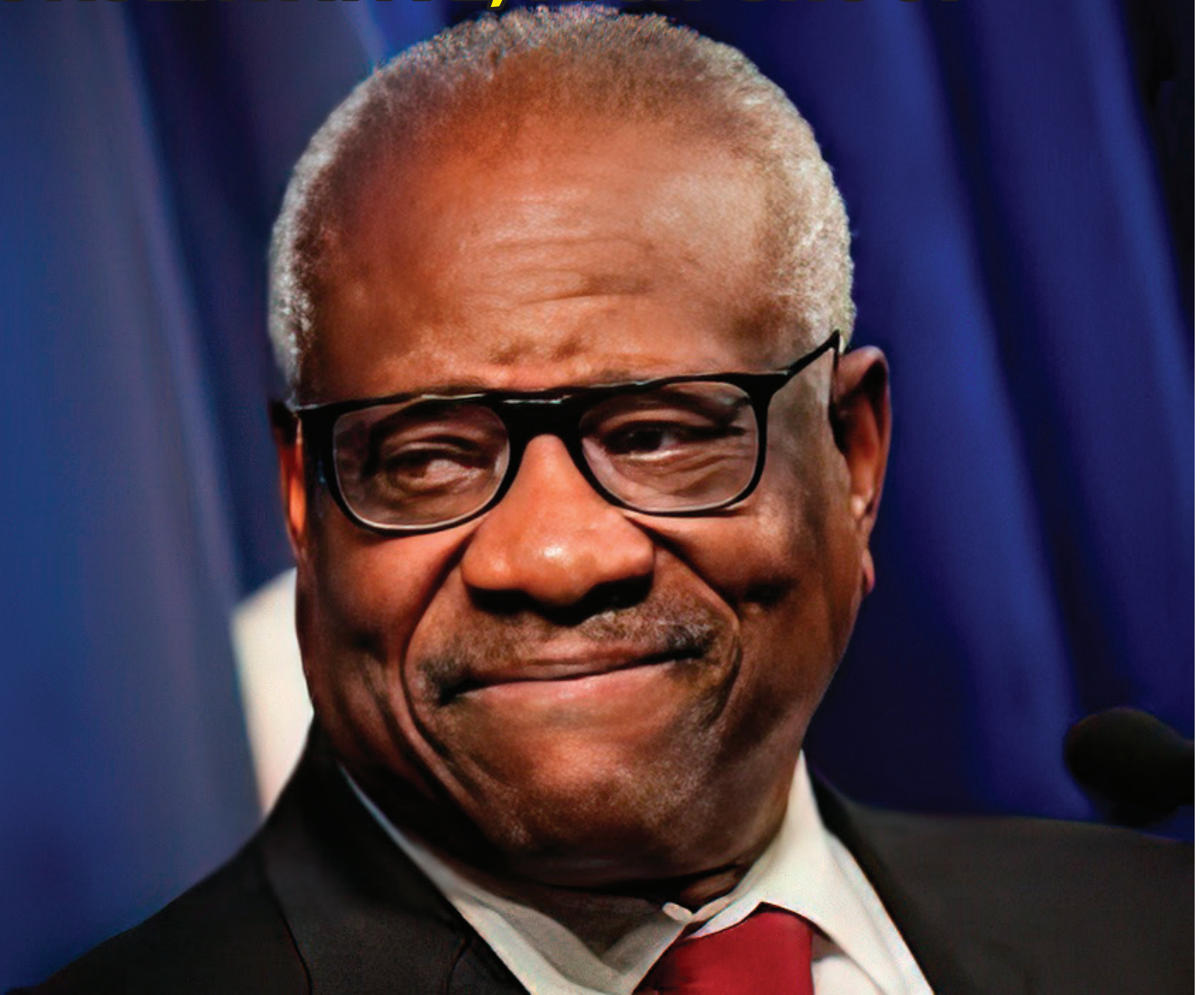
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JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS

**IS MEMBER OF AN ELITE,
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He is the recipient of numerous luxurious gifts, which raises the question of the integrity and transparency of one of the nation's highest judicial authorities.



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Bank of America violated consumer protection rules by double charging customers, Fed

Some of the accusations are reminiscent of the Wells Fargo debacle from a decade ago, which involved the creation of millions of unauthorized consumer bank accounts.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior

Federal authorities announced on Tuesday, July 11, that Bank of America violated numerous consumer financial protection rules by double-charging customers, not distributing credit card rewards, and creating fraudulent accounts.

As a result, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) fined Bank of America \$90 million and compelled the institution to pay more than \$100 million to customers.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency fined Bank of America \$60 million.

Some of the accusations are reminiscent of the Wells Fargo debacle from a decade ago, which involved the creation of millions of unauthorized consumer bank accounts.

"Bank of America wrongfully withheld credit card rewards, double-dipped on fees, and opened accounts without consent," stated CFPB Director Rohit Chopra.

In addition to being illegal, the methods also damaged credibility with the public, regulators stated.

The CFPB vowed to end the banking practices nationwide.

The bank boasts 68 million customers, making it the second largest in the country.

Following the CFPB investigation, Bank of America was found to have "harmed hundreds of thousands of consumers over a period of several years and across multiple product lines and services," regulators asserted.



Customers were charged "tens of millions of dollars in fees on resubmitted transactions," after the bank allowed consumers to be "repeatedly charged" \$35 each time a transaction was resubmitted after being declined due to insufficient funds.

This happened even if the third-party merchant resubmitted the charge to the customer's account after the first attempt was refused.

If the customer's account has insufficient funds or an overdraft, they were charged an additional \$35.

The bank's statements were vague about the possibility of several fees arising from a single transaction, regulators stated.

"Clients had no way of knowing if or when a merchant would resubmit a transaction to the bank for payment, making it unreasonable for them to avoid being charged multiple times for the same transaction," investigators stated.

The CFPB also claimed that the bank improperly withheld bonuses from tens of thousands of clients despite having made special offers of cash and points when signing

up new credit card customers.

The agency also claimed that beginning in 2012, bank workers "illegally applied for and enrolled consumers in credit card accounts without consumers' knowledge or authorization" to meet now-defunct sales-based incentive goals and raise their ratings.

As a result, clients were penalized with unauthorized fees, saw negative marks on their credit reports, and had to take extra steps to rectify the bank's mistakes after it used or obtained their credit reports without their permission.

For those infractions, Bank of America must pay over \$250 million to government authorities and affected consumers.

This isn't the first time the bank has faced penalties from the government.

The CFPB also ordered the bank to pay \$727 million to settle consumer complaints over unfair credit card practices in 2014.

Further, Bank of America was fined \$10 million for wrongful garnishments last year and another \$225 million for "botched disbursement of state unemployment benefits at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic."



Clarence Thomas' connections to wealth, luxurious vacations exposed unveils a deeper web

According to the report, Thomas has exploited his ties with affluent individuals he met through the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, a prestigious scholarship organization, for personal gain, benefiting himself and his wife, Virginia.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

The New York Times has uncovered that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has a network of connections to wealth and opulent vacations that extend beyond his association with billionaire businessman and controversial figure Harlan Crow, known for his affinity for Nazi memorabilia.

According to the report, Thomas has exploited his ties with affluent individuals he met through the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, a prestigious scholarship organization, for

personal gain, benefiting himself and his wife, Virginia.

Thanks to their Horatio Alger connections, the Thomases have gained exclusive invitations to extravagant vacations, lavish parties, and coveted VIP access to sporting events.

Moreover, the association has facilitated encounters for Thomas with prominent figures such as Oprah Winfrey and Ed McMahon, as witnessed during a lavish three-day birthday celebration in Montana for billionaire industrialist Dennis Washington.

However, Thomas' involvement with the Horatio Alger Association extends beyond luxury trips.

Notably, the contacts he made through this association, including Washington and investor David Sokol, formerly of Berkshire Hathaway, played a role in financing a documentary that portrayed him as a hero following the release

Continued on page 5

Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III succeeds Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. as President and CEO of Rainbow PUSH Coalition

Ordained by Rev. Clay Evans on June 30, 1968, Jackson received his Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2000.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

Tributes have continued to pour in for the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who announced on July 14 his retirement as President and CEO of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, the influential civil rights organization he started decades ago to carry on the struggle for equality and justice that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought heroically.

The organization said Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III will succeed Jackson.

"The promise of America is that we are all created equal in the image of God and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives. While we've never fully

lived up to that promise, we've never fully walked away from it because of extraordinary leaders like Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr.," President Joe Biden stated.

"Throughout our decades of friendship and partnership, I've seen how Reverend Jackson has helped lead our nation forward through tumult and triumph."

The President continued:

"Whether on the campaign trail, on the march for equality, or in the room advocating for what is right and just, I've seen him as history will remember him: a man of God and of the people; determined, strategic, and unafraid of the work to redeem the soul of our nation."

One of Jackson's comrade in the civil rights struggle, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., echoed Biden's remarks.

"On behalf of the NNPA, repre-



sending the Black Press of America, I am so pleased to issue the NNPA's highest regards and respect to the Honorable Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr.," Chavis remarked.

"I have known and worked with the Rev. Jackson all of my adult life as a fellow freedom fighter in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, NAACP, Rainbow PUSH, United Church

Continued on page 5

Biden-Harris Admin launches \$2.2B relief initiative to support Black farmers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that applications are now being accepted for the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program, which aims to provide financial aid to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who have experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending prior to 2021.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

The Biden-Harris Administration has unveiled a \$2.2 billion relief initiative aimed at providing support to Black farmers and other individuals who have faced discrimination within federal

government lending programs.

The Inflation Reduction Act, part of Biden's commitment to addressing historical injustices, includes a total of \$5.3 billion dedicated to offering relief to tens of thousands of farmers across the country.

Of the allocated funds, \$3.1 billion reportedly will be used to assist distressed borrowers in paying off their farm debts without losing their land or becoming ineligible for future assistance.

An additional \$2.2 billion will be allocated specifically to farmers who have suffered discrimination through USDA farm programs.

Continued on page 5



Illinois city begins paying reparations to Black Americans

Checks and vouchers in the amount of \$25,000 have been sent this week to eligible residents, a move that backs up the city's 2019 promise to pay as much as \$10 million over the next decade in reparations.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

Reparations have finally arrived for some Black Americans.

The city of Evanston, Illinois, began its historic reparations program by providing compensation to its many of its Black residents.

Checks and vouchers in the amount of \$25,000 have been sent this week to eligible residents, a move that backs up the city's 2019 promise to pay as much as \$10 million over the next decade in reparations.

Approved in March 2021, the program targets Black residents who resided in Evanston between 1919 and 1969 or experienced housing discrimination due to the city's policies.

It's a similar program which officials in San Francisco currently are grappling with, as that California city also considers reparations by the harms suffered by Black residents denied fair housing, job and educational opportunities, and other hardships that were unfairly inflicted upon African American communities.

One Evanston recipient, Louis Weathers, an 88-year-old retired postal worker and

Korean War veteran, shared his personal experience with racial prejudice during his interview with the Wall Street Journal.

He recounted his time at an integrated junior high school, where a white teacher consistently marginalized Black students.

He explained that the teacher would purposely ignore their raised hands to undermine their capabilities.

"We got onto that, though. When we didn't know the answer, we raised our hands," Weathers recounted.

Weathers counted among the first to receive a \$25,000 check from the city. He told the newspaper that he gave his reparations check to his son to reduce debt and make upgrades on his home.

The payments, which can be received as vouchers or cash, are funded through taxes on marijuana and real-estate transfers.

While Evanston has begun making reparation payments, similar proposals at the national level have faced challenges.

Although a federal bill calling for a national reparations task force has been introduced annually since 1989, it has yet to be voted on in Congress.

Evanston's mayor, Daniel Biss, said his city remains committed to change.

"Our job here is just to move forward and to continue being that example, to continue illustrating that a small municipality can make real tangible progress," he stated.



California legislature pushes bill mandating that judges consider race in sentencing

The proposed bill aims to amend the Penal Code of California and requires judges to consider a convicted criminal's race when determining prison sentences.

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA
Newswire)

A Democratic-supported bill that addresses racial bias in the state's criminal justice system is currently making its way through the California Legislature.

Assembly Member Reggie Jones-Sawyer, the Democratic chair of the California Assembly's Public Safety Committee, introduced the relatively unknown Bill 852 in February.

The Assembly subsequently passed the legislation in May, and it is now under consideration in the state Senate.

The bill proposed aims to amend the Penal Code of California and requires judges to consider a convicted criminal's race when determining prison sentences.

Its objective is to rectify the historical racial bias deeply ingrained in the criminal justice system.

The legislation asserts that historically persecuted minorities have been disproportionately affected and aims to address this disparity.

The bill states, "The Legislature intends to rectify the racial bias that has historically permeated our criminal justice system, as documented by the California Task Force to Study and Develop



Reparation Proposals for African Americans."

The bill further emphasizes that courts must consider the disparate impact on historically disenfranchised and system-impacted populations when exercising their discretion in determining appropriate sentences.

The California task force, which Governor Gavin Newsom established in 2020 to investigate the possibility of implementing statewide reparations to address the legacy of slavery and racism, inspires the legislation.

The task force recently released its final recommendations, which the state legislature is reviewing.

These recommendations would be sent to the governor's desk for approval if implemented.

The task force's comprehensive 1,000-page report proposes various statewide policies and outlines methodologies to calculate monetary reparations for historical injustices against Black Americans.

The report highlights the lasting consequences of slavery and systemic racism today.

Notably, the task force estimates that each eligible Black Californian has incurred a minimum of \$1 million in harm caused or preventable by the state.

Regarding criminal justice, the task force found that qualifying Black residents may be entitled to compensation of over \$115,000—roughly \$2,352 per year of residency in California from 1971 to 2020.

This compensation would address issues such as over-policing in Black communities, excessive felony drug arrests, and disproportionate prison sentences during the so-called war on drugs.

Additionally, the final report proposed measures to abolish cash bail and end the prosecution of low-level offenses.

Bill 852 seeks to build upon the task force's findings and recommendations by requiring California courts to actively combat racial bias in sentencing.

The legislation aims to ensure fairer outcomes for Black individuals and other marginalized communities by considering race as a factor.

Judge rules against survivors of the Tulsa Massacre

Viola Ford Fletcher with Hughes Von Ellis, survivors of the Tulsa Massacre
(TriceEdneyWire.com) -

An Oklahoma judge rejected demands for reparations resulting from the 1920 Tulsa Massacre in which more than 300 Blacks were killed, and hundreds were left homeless following an attack led by Whites of the Greenwood Neighborhood, also known as Black Wall Street.

The lawsuit was brought by a Black man and two Black Women over the age of 102 who were children at the time.

Lewis Bennington Randle, 108, Viola Fletcher, 109, and Hughes Van Ellis, 102, sued Tulsa because the city refused to recover from the plaintiff's unjust treatment.

The City of Tulsa called for the dismissal of the lawsuit, and Judge Caroline Wall agreed.

Judge Wall dismissed the lawsuit prejudice, which made the plaintiffs could not bring the lawsuit again.

Ike Howard, the grandson of Viola Fletcher, said he was angry about the ruling, "They were blighted and once again not made whole," Howard said. "We remain blighted. We wish the D.O.J would investigate. ... How can we get justice in the same city that created the nuisance? Is justice only for the rich?"

A family attorney is expected to address the possibility of an appeal.

It started this way with a White woman's tears.

On the morning of May 30, 1921, a young black man named Dick Rowland was riding in the elevator in the Drexel Building at Third and Main white woman



named Sarah Page.

Tulsa police arrested Rowland the following day and began an investigation. An inflammatory report in the May 31 edition of the Tulsa Tribune spurred a confrontation between black and white armed mobs around the courthouse where the sheriff and his men had barricaded the top floor to protect Rowland. Shots were fired. African American men pulled out their rifles and fought back, according to the Tulsa Historical Society.

There was no turning of the cheek, but they were eventually overwhelmed.

Whites employed low-flying airplanes to strafed Black-own homes by dropping bombs.

In the early morning hours of June 1, 1921, Greenwood was looted and burned by white rioters. Governor Robertson declared martial law, and National Guard troops arrived in Tulsa.

Guardsmen assisted firemen in putting out fires, took African Americans out of the hands of vigilantes, and imprisoned all black Tulsans not already interned. Over 6,000 people were held at the Convention Hall and the Fairgrounds, some for as long as eight days.

No one has been tried for the massacre.

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Clarence Thomas' connections to wealth, luxurious vacations exposed unveils a deeper web

From page 3

of an HBO movie that depicted Anita Hill's sexual harassment allegations during his confirmation hearings.

The Sokol family further extended their generosity by hosting the Thomases at their Montana ranch and waterfront estate in Florida.

The New York Times discovered that Thomas had not disclosed many of the benefits and gifts he had received from his wealthy and well-connected allies, and he declined to provide the paper with any clarification regarding this matter.

Initially, at the start of his tenure on the Supreme Court, Thomas dutifully reported various personal gifts he received, such as private flights, cigars, and clothing.

However, after The Los Angeles Times scrutinized his disclosures in 2004, Thomas ceased reporting certain gifts and advantages he received to the court.

A recent investigation by ProPublica in 2023 exposed Thomas' close relationship with Harlan Crow, a GOP megadonor with a disturbing collection of Nazi

memorabilia and Hitler paintings.

Crow had treated Thomas to trips on his private jet and yacht, amounting to tens of thousands of dollars, and even purchased a residence where Thomas' mother resided.

Additionally, Crow financed the tuition of Thomas' nephew, who was under the care of the Thomases.

In response to the revelation of his relationship with Crow, Thomas defended his lack of honesty by claiming that "colleagues and others in the judiciary" had advised him that he did not need to disclose trips of a "personal hospitality" nature from friends.

Thomas' acceptance of benefits granted him access to exclusive places he might not have otherwise frequented, and he also extended unusual access to the Horatio Alger Association by hosting their induction ceremony for new members in the Supreme Court's courtroom.

The Times highlights this as an extraordinary privilege granted to an outside group.

The newspaper's examination of fundraising records revealed that the association uses this unique access to raise money for events

and scholarships.

In an acknowledgment of the significance of the Horatio Alger Association in his life, Thomas expressed, "The Horatio Alger Association has been a home to Virginia and me."

Upon receiving the association's highest honor in 2010, he made these remarks, further stating that the association had enabled him to witness his dreams come true.

If his dreams revolved around undisclosed extravagant vacations and exclusive privileges, then he appears to have achieved them.

The Supreme Court recently updated its disclosure regulations, mandating that justices report private jet travel and complimentary stays at hotels and resorts.

However, an exception exists for "personal hospitality," encompassing food, accommodations, or entertainment unrelated to official business.

As the layers of Clarence Thomas' connections to wealth and luxury are gradually peeled back, questions arise about the integrity and transparency of one of the nation's highest judicial authorities.

Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III succeeds Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr. as President and CEO of Rainbow PUSH Coalition

From page 3

of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, and the National African American Leadership Summit."

Chavis continued: "Rev. Jackson's transformative 'Run Jesse Run' presidential campaigns in the 1980s irreversibly changed America for the better. "The Black Press resolutely salutes Jesse Jackson's outstanding national and global leadership, and we pledge to keep fighting for freedom, justice, equality, and equity."

Jackson, a renowned figure in the fight for civil rights, founded PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) in 1971 and established the National Rainbow Coalition in 1984.

In 1996, the two organizations merged to form the powerful and influential Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

Organization officials said Dr. Haynes, a Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. co-chair, has exemplified the same passion and commitment to global racial justice that characterizes Jackson's legacy.

As a co-founder of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC), Inc., Haynes has been a guiding force for over two decades, upholding the mission and ministry of the organization.

"This nation has entered a new era of struggle against racial injustices, hate speech, new forms of institutional oppression against the poor, people of color, and those marginalized due to religion or sexual orientation," said Dr. Iva Carruthers, general secretary, and co-founder of the SDPC.

Bishop Leah Daughtry, co-chair of the SDPC, highlighted the necessity for collaboration between national and local organizations during what he called critical times.

"Collaboration between national and local organizations is ever more needed at this time," he said in a news release.

According to his official biography, Jackson was born on October 8, 1941, in Greenville,

South Carolina.

He graduated from the public schools in Greenville and then enrolled in the University of Illinois on a football scholarship.

Jackson later transferred to North Carolina A&T State University and graduated in 1964.

He began his theological studies at Chicago Theological Seminary but, according to his bio, deferred his studies when he started working full-time in the Civil Rights Movement with Dr. King.

Ordained by Rev. Clay Evans on June 30, 1968, Jackson received his Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2000.

For his work in human and civil rights and nonviolent social change, Jackson has received over 40 honorary doctorate degrees and frequently lectures at major colleges and universities, including Howard, Yale, Princeton, Morehouse, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and Hampton.

He was made an Honorary Fellow of Regents Park College at Oxford University in the UK in November 2007 and received an Honorary Fellowship from Edge Hill University in Liverpool, England.

In March 2010, Jackson earned induction into England's prestigious Cambridge Union Society.

In April 2010, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

In October 1997, President Bill Clinton appointed Jackson as Special Envoy of the President and Secretary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa.

"Jill and I are grateful to Rev. Jackson for his lifetime of dedicated service and extend our appreciation to the entire Jackson family," Biden added.

"We look forward to working with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition as he hands the torch to the next generation of leadership, just as we will continue to cherish the counsel and wisdom that we draw from him."

Biden-Harris Admin launches \$2.2B relief initiative to support Black farmers

From page 3

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that applications are now being accepted for the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program, which aims to provide financial aid to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who have experienced discrimination in USDA farm lending prior to 2021.

"The opening of the application process is an important step in delivering on our commitment to providing financial assistance to those who faced discrimination in USDA farm lending, as swiftly and efficiently as possible," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack emphasized.

The initiative comes after decades of Black farmers accusing the USDA of discrimination and being denied loans crucial for their livelihoods and land preservation.

A study conducted in May 2022 revealed that Black farmers had lost over \$326 billion in land value throughout the 20th century.

The Washington Informer reported in 2022 that researchers considered that figure to be a conservative estimate of the actual financial impact racist practices have had on Black American farmers since 1920.

Biden issued an executive order last year, instructing the USDA to establish a 15-member independent equity commission aimed at rectifying discrimination within its policies and practices concerning Black farmers.

Under the initial Build Back Better plan, the Biden administration said it wanted to allocate significant funds to support Black farmers.

However, the plan was scuttled after white farmers filed lawsuits claiming that the earmarking of funds specifically for Black farmers amounted to discrimination.

The legal action has resulted in the tying up of \$4 billion as the administration continues to defend the action in court.

Further, a 2021 report from ProPublica also shed light on the systematic discrimination faced by Black farmers at the hands of various federal agencies, including the USDA.

The report detailed how the USDA impeded Black farmers' access to critical federal funds through discriminatory loan denials and deliberate delays in financial aid.

"If you are Black and you're born south of the Mason-Dixon Line and you tried to farm, you've been discriminated against," Lloyd Wright, the director of the USDA Office of Civil Rights under

Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, and a Black Virginia farmer, stated in the report.

In an earlier interview with the Informer, John Wesley Boyd Jr., founder, and president of the National Black Farmers Association in Bakersville, Virginia, added, "The oldest occupation in this country for Black people is farming. But from slavery through Jim Crow, the USDA, and the banks – all these things put together means we are facing extinction."

Boyd added: "What's troubling is when the brown bear, the black bear, and the bald eagle were facing extinction, Congress put harsh laws in place until their numbers came back up. So why can't they do the same thing for the oldest occupation in history for Black people, which is farming?"

The White House said the launch of the \$2.2 billion relief initiative represents a significant step towards rectifying the historical injustices faced by Black farmers and marks the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to addressing systemic discrimination in federal lending programs.

With the Discrimination Financial Assistance Program now accepting applications, eligible farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners should now have access to needed financial assistance.



NNPA President & CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., with Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow Push Coalition's Annual Automotive Summit in Detroit/NNPA

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Editorial - Opinion

Celebrating 20 years of upholding a tradition as "The voice of Black America"



by Marc H. Morial

- "Show me a person who is full of prejudice, and I will show you a sick, unhappy, fearful individual who is not going anywhere and who is not growing. People don't shut other people out; they fence themselves in." - Whitney M. Young, Jr.

It was 20 years ago this week that I humbly assumed the responsibilities of leadership of the National Urban League — one of which is the honor to author this very column, To Be Equal, established by the esteemed Whitney M. Young, Jr.

The column shares its name and takes its inspiration from Young's first full-length book, published on New Year's Day, 1964, in the wake of what Young called "the year of the Negro Revolution," a year that saw thousands of children, marching through Birmingham, Alabama, attacked by police dogs and blasted with firehoses; the Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in in Jackson, Mississippi; Gov. George W. Wallace's Stand in the Schoolhouse Door at the University of Alabama, the assassination of Medgar Evers, the March on Washington for Jobs and Justice, and the deadly bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church.

The first To Be Equal column to be published in New York's Amsterdam News was headlined, "How Much Are Negroes Worth?" Young recounted his conversation with "a middle-aged white housewife" who declared she harbored no prejudice against Black Americans but could not comprehend the push to desegregate schools. "Her arguments against school integration, it turned out, were directed against sending her children to slum schools," Young wrote. "But supposedly there is nothing wrong with sending Negro children to slum schools."

The last To Be Equal column published under Young's byline ran three weeks after his tragic March 11, 1971 drowning in Nigeria and consisted of excerpts of his various speeches. The last column he authored, also published after his death and headlined "Old Story, New Beginning," concerned his efforts as part of a special com-

mission tasked with updating the recommendations of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, also known as the Kerner Commission.

"The Kerner report's sound recommendations have been ignored, and concerned citizens are going to have to put some muscle into their principles if this nation is to survive," Young wrote. "The Kerner Commission recommended, among other things, greater concern by private citizens, and it's good to note that at a time when many private groups are simply throwing up their hands and refusing to become involved, at least one national organization has devised an imaginative new program.

That national organization was the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the imaginative new program was the National Committee for Commitment to Brotherhood, formed to support

the work of the National Urban League, NAACP, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The first To Be Equal to be published after Young's death was authored by Harold R. Sims, who served as the National Urban League's acting executive director until the appointment of Vernon E. Jordan. Appropriately, it was a tribute to Young headlined "Nation Mourns A Great Leader."

"Whitney Young was a man who transcended the boundaries of race, nationality, and ideology," Sims wrote. "He was a man who formed a human bridge between the rich and the poor, the white and the black, the conservative and the liberal. Labels simply don't apply to such a universal man."

Each of Young's successors has continued to publish To Be Equal, and it has been my honor to uphold the tradition as he intended it to be, "the voice of Black America."

I asked what kind of family



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AFRICAN RIGHTS GROUPS PRESS U.S. CORP TO DISMISS EXEC FOR 'SPREADING HOMOPHOBIA'

African rights group press U.S. corp to dismiss exec for 'spreading homophobia'

U.L. 14, 2023 (GIN)—Over a dozen organizations have signed on to a petition seeking the removal of a senior employee in the multinational Intel Corporation allegedly spreading anti-LGBTQ sentiment in several African countries.

The rights groups allege that Intel's vice-president of global regulatory affairs has been "actively responsible for exporting, financing and spreading hate, homophobia" on the continent for decades, through the American conservative organization, Family Watch International.

Family Watch Int'l is run by the executive's wife and has been actively lobbying high-ranking African leaders and lawmakers to deny the rights of the LGBTQ community. The U.S. group is described as a "hate group" by the U.S. civil rights group Southern Poverty Law Center.

"Family Watch International has sponsored trips for politicians and diplomats from Kenya, Uganda and other African countries to ... train them on their extremist agenda against homosexuality,



sexuality education and reproductive rights," said Jedidah Maina of the Trust for Indigenous Culture and Health, the Kenyan non-profit that filed the petition.

The U.S. group has been active in other countries such as Ghana and Kenya, which have witnessed moves to introduce similar legislation over the past year.

Family Watch International's website carries a denial of the claims against them. "Despite media reports to the contrary, Family Watch has never advocated for or lobbied in favor of any anti-efforts in Africa to promote anti-homosexual bills."

But rights groups insist that the opposite is true. "There is nothing organic about the wave of anti-homosexuality bills we are seeing," said Muthoni Ngugi, the head

of the East Africa Legal Service Network, one of the organisations supporting the petition.

Data shared with the Guardian newspaper by the Kenya National Human Rights Commission shows that at least 356 cases of physical, verbal, cyberbullying and death threats to members of the community have taken place, with nearly a dozen anti-LGBTQ+ rallies in major cities.

An Intel spokesperson said: "Intel is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion. We also understand that our employees have diverse opinions and viewpoints. We respect the rights of our employees to disagree with Intel's policies or undertake outside activities as long as they treat their fellow employees with respect and act in accordance with Intel's code of conduct"

Mozambican ex-minister faces U.S. trial over \$2B 'tuna' scam

(GIN) -

A former government minister reputed to have orchestrated the embezzlement of over two billion dollars and the fabrication of a daring conspiracy whose victims were Swiss bankers, American investors and global lenders, has been extradited to the U.S. where it is hoped that justice will finally be served.

With the money he obtained from allegedly committing fraud and money laundering, the ex-minister from Mozambique, Manuel Chang, claimed he was going to buy a tuna fish factory for his very poor country with borrowed money—about two billion dollars.

Chang won over American investors, the political elite, Swiss bankers, and the current Mozambican president, Felipe Nyusi. Three Credit Suisse bankers signed on as did Russian lender VTB.

Some money was indeed used to buy ships and other things related to the project. However, the ships were never used and are rotting away in Mozambique's ports. Also, they were not bought at normal prices but at hugely inflated prices.

The promised benefits for Mozambique were not realized at all. There was no added value. Instead, a huge mountain of debt was created. The cost so far is about USD 11 billion or the country's entire gross domestic product in a year.

The economic consequences will cost many people their lives, or already have.

Now, after sitting in a jail in South Africa since December 2018, Mr. Chang has another place to go—a prison in the U.S. where he is expected to await charges in the US relating to loans obtained from Credit Suisse and Russia's VTB bank that were guaranteed by the Mozambican government.

The son of Mozambique's former president received a 12 year jail sentence over the \$2.2 billion fishing project scandal that triggered an economic crisis in the country.

Chang, accused of receiving bribes of up to \$18 million, has pleaded not guilty in a federal court in New York.

The former minister had fought his extradition to the U.S. and the Mozambican government's own attempts to have Chang face trial in Mozambique. Some groups opposed his return to his country because of concerns he would likely be treated leniently.

He has also been denied bail. The judge, citing the amount of money involved and the gravity of the charges, agreed with prosecutors that he could be a flight risk.

At least 10 people have already been convicted and sentenced to prison by a Mozambican court over the scandal, including Ndambi Guebuza, the son of former Mozambican president Armando Guebuza who was sentenced to 12 years in prison for receiving up to \$33 million from the corrupt deal.

The consequences of the crime "will last generations", the judge said.

Painful cost of living hikes spark violent protests across Kenya

(GIN)

Kenyans are preparing for tough times after lawmakers approved tax increases that are unpopular even with supporters of the president who once vowed to reduce the cost of living.

"He said he was going to make life easier for us hustlers. We are now unable to afford food. Prices are higher than they were before elections," hairdresser Evelyne Adhiambo told a reporter.

Protests against the taxes led by opposition leader Raila Odinga have turned violent. Stone-throwers have clashed with police in Kenyan cities during a second round of demonstrations within a week.

According to local media reports, three schoolchildren were rushed to the hospital after police sprayed tear gas into their school while dispersing protesters.

At least six people were killed during protests against the taxes.

Kenya's High Court suspended the tax hike pending a legal challenge, but the government raised gas prices anyway.

Ruto campaigned on a platform of reducing the cost of living. He accused former President Uhuru Kenyatta of letting food costs "skyrocket because he has never slept without food in his life, as he was born in a wealthy family."



His election win was attributed to his appeal to voters as a fellow "hustler" who rose from a humble background to senior roles in government, including as Kenyatta's vice president.

Christian and Muslim leaders have now been urging the President to repeal the finance bill, warning that Kenyans face a level of hopelessness that "can easily inspire insurrection."

Ruto said new taxes were the only way to reduce borrowing for a government with a public debt of \$67 billion.

Economist Aly Khan Satchu called the gas tax a reform that the International Monetary Fund was championing for some time and may have been a "soft precondition" for a \$1.1 billion IMF package recently

announced for Kenya.

Award winning writer Patrick Gathara commented: "The ability to command the loyalty of a police force that can kill and brutalize your perceived enemies and a compliant, corrupt parliament that can give your oppression the veneer of law, in the end, will only delay an inevitable reckoning with the people."

"Winning an election may give one access to public power," he said, "but that access has to be constantly negotiated during one's term. And the people's consent can be withdrawn at any time, with or without an intervening election. That is the essence of government by consent rather than by coercion. It is not about how many MPs support you. Rather it is about how many Kenyans do."



Audrey's society whirl



Audrey J. Bernard

The ESPY Awards was a celebration of excellence in sports



On Wednesday, July 12, 2023, the 2023 ESPY Awards honored the best of the best athletes from the past year in sports at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California and televised on ESPN. The popular annual display of athletic prowess is always a fun and exciting evening and allows the sports world to strut their stuff in fabulous fashion as they celebrate the winners. Highlights of the evening included honoring inspiring and courageous athletes with special recognition. The Pat

Tillman Award for Service was given to the Buffalo Bills training staff that saved player Damar Hamlin. The Arthur Ashe Award for Courage went to U.S. Women's National Soccer Team "for their resilient fight for equal pay off the field." The Jimmy V Award for Perseverance was awarded to White Sox pitcher Liam Hendriks, who is now in remission from non-Hodgkin lymphoma. LeBron James' family who joined him on-stage to celebrate him becoming the NBA's all-time leading scor-



2 Chainz and King Halo



The James Family -- LeBron, Bryce, Zhuri, Savannah, Bronny

er. James thanked his family for all the sacrifices they made for him to have such a dominant career before announcing that he isn't done playing in the NBA. "The day I can't give the game everything on the floor

is the day I'll be done. Lucky for you guys, that day is not today," he said. The members of the "Banana Boat Crew" -- LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Paul -- paid their respects to their fellow member,

Carmelo Anthony, for his NBA career and what he's accomplished off the court. Entertainment was provided by Lil' Wayne and H.E.R. Everyone was a winner! (Photos on pages 8 and 9 by Getty Images for ESPY)



Bianca Belair and Montez Ford



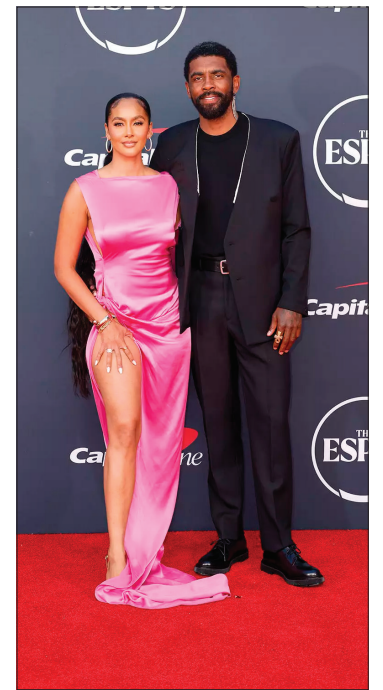
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Claressa Shields



Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony, and Chris Paul



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OK! Magazine

Tina Turner cremated — final resting place for Queen of Rock ‘n’ Roll’s ashes unknown

By Aaron Johnson

Music Icon Tina Turner has been cremated after her loved ones bid their final farewell. It’s unclear where the singer’s ashes currently are, but according to Radar, she wanted her resting place to be a location dear to her heart. The details of the superstar’s private funeral aren’t publicly known, though her assistant Eddy Hampton Armani previously told one outlet, “She did not want a big public funeral.”

There’s a good chance the ceremony took place in Switzerland, which is where she passed away peacefully in her home. Shortly after her death, longtime pal Oprah Winfrey was seen arriving in Zurich, presumably to say goodbye. As OK! reported, Turner passed away at age 83 on May 24, 2023 after years of health battles, though her official cause of death was listed as “natural causes.”

Tina Turner maintained her showgirl flair throughout her decades-spanning career. The Grammy winner admitted in her 2018 memoir that she was in such a bad place before her kidney transplant that she contemplated assisted suicide. “It wasn’t my idea of life but the toxins in my body had started taking over. I couldn’t eat,” she explained. “I was surviving, but not living. I began to think about death. If my kidneys were going, and it was time for me to die, I could accept that, it was OK. When it’s time, it’s really time.”

Turner also battled mental illness, including PTSD and de-



Ms. Tina Turner a beloved never-to-be forgotten “SURVIVOR”

pression, mostly stemming from her abusive marriage to ex Ike Turner. “My relationship with Ike was doomed the day he figured

out I was going to be his money-maker,” she wrote elsewhere in her tome. “He needed to control me, economically and psychologically,

so I could never leave him.” Their relationship turned so toxic that she once tried to commit suicide by taking an entire bottle of sleeping

pills. “I was unhappy when I woke up,” Turner recalled. “But I came out of the darkness believing I was meant to survive.”

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L.A. sheriff slams deputy who punched mom in face as she held baby

LOS ANGELES (AP) — For the second time in a week, the Los Angeles County sheriff decried the use of force by deputies in the Antelope Valley after the Sheriff's Department released video on Wednesday of a deputy punching a woman twice in the face as she held her baby.

The edited video from body camera footage shows the July 2022 encounter during a traffic stop in Palmdale, northeast of Los Angeles.

At a news conference, Sheriff Robert Luna said he found the punching "completely unacceptable" and has sent the case to the county district attorney's office, which will decide whether to file criminal charges against the deputy. The FBI also was alerted, Luna said.

Luna said the deputy, whom he didn't name, has been taken off field duty.

Last week, Luna said two deputies had been pulled from field duty after video surfaced of a deputy in neighboring Lancaster violently tackling a woman while she filmed a man being handcuffed, then pepper-spraying her in the face on June 24.

In both cases, Luna said he had only lately learned of the incidents. Although the sheriff said state law bars him from detailing specific



discipline against deputies, he has said those involved in improper use of force could face anything from additional training to days off or dismissal.

Luna, a former Long Beach police chief, has vowed to overhaul the nation's largest sheriff's department since taking it over in December after defeating incumbent Alex Villanueva.

During the July 2022 encounter, deputies stopped a car driving without headlights at night, smelled alcohol, and saw three babies who weren't in car seats and were being held in their mother's arms, Luna said.

The male driver was arrested on suspicion of driving on a suspended license, driving under the influence of alcohol and child endangerment. Four women in the car were held on suspicion of child endangerment. During their arrests, a deputy punched one woman twice in the face after

she refused to let go of her child, Luna said.

The video shows one woman's child being forcibly taken from her as she shrieks, then a second woman sitting cross-legged on the ground, holding her 3-week-old child.

Deputies try to convince her to give them the child, and the mother responds, "You'll have to shoot me dead before you take my baby," the video shows. As she resists, a deputy punches her several times in the face, and she is handcuffed.

Luna said he believed the punching was "an isolated incident committed by an individual who will be held accountable." He said most other employees are doing "incredible work on behalf of 10 million residents."

The county district attorney's office will decide whether to file criminal charges against the deputy.

NJ teacher allegedly mailed afro wig, white face paint to mixed-race second grader as 'Act of intimidation,'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Officials in Warren Township School District are under fire following the filing of a civil rights lawsuit by the parents of a mixed-race student in the New Jersey town.

They claim their son was subjected to harassment, intimidation, and bullying by his second-grade teacher due to his racial background.

The New Jersey family further claims the student was retaliated against when the civil rights allegations were brought to officials' attention.

Woodland School in Warren Township, New Jersey (Photo: Warren Township Schools)

The teacher allegedly sent the 7-year-old boy an Afro wig and white paint on July 9, 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when students were still remote learning, according to the Daily Beast.

The family's complaint reportedly says teachers had access to students' addresses for the 2021-2022 school year. That school year began on Sept. 1, 2021.



Denise and Kevin Anderson, the boy's parents, state in a racial harassment complaint filed on July 6 that Amazon's customer service verified for them that the boy's teacher, Christine Rzasa, sent the items, which they call an "act of intimidation."

Still, the school board, district, and Jeff Heaney, the principal at Woodland School in Warren Township, did nothing to reprimand the educator. According to the lawsuit, while nothing was done to the teacher, their son was retaliated against and was forced to learn in a "hostile education environment."

Latest 'poolside Karen' video shows woman demand Black people 'Get the f—k out' of the water

Source: Houston Chronicle/Hearst Newspapers via Getty Images / Getty

OK, look: I don't know what kind of new Karen Crow era white women at swimming pools are trying to usher in here, but they're only going to keep going viral because Black people and people of color are not having it.

Just last week, a video spread across social media that showed a Latino family at a swimming pool in Lakewood, Colorado, by 49-year-old Blair Featherman aka Poolside Karen aka Dipping Donna aka Bikini Becky aka Chlorine Claudia aka Swimming-in-white-tears Susan. (I made most of those up.)

Featherman is now trying to claim the video of her in the midst of her bigoted rant was heavily edited as if there's any context in which calling a family "trash" for having "a f—king Mexican party in a pool" is less racist. At any rate, multiple witnesses dispute the notion that Wading Wendy's obvious Klan-ishness was misrepresented in the video, or that she was attacked first, as she claims.

Anyway, now there's another video that appears to be out of Fort Worth, Texas, (according to the text in the video) that shows yet another Shallow-end Sarah who seems to be deathly allergic to minding her own business when Black and brown people are enjoying themselves at a swimming pool.



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Shawn Carter Foundation raises \$20M to help the underserved

On a balmy Friday evening, July 14, 2023, JAY-Z, his wife Beyoncé, and his mother Mrs. Gloria Carter attended an elegant, black-tie gala at Pier Sixty to honor the 20th anniversary of their Shawn Carter Foundation (SCF). The foundation, which was founded by Hov and his mother in 2003, raised \$20 million to help “individuals facing socio-economic hardships further their education at postsecondary institutions.” Big donors included a \$10 million contribution from Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez as well as \$2 million from Jack Dorsey. This was a big night for SCF as they also announced a partnership with Robert Kraft’s Foundation to Combat Antisemitism to help combat book bans across the country. Both foundations contributed \$1 million to protect free speech and intellectual learning. Fanatics and Live Nation made additional contributions of \$500,000 each to support the cause. The funds will “provide book donations, legal support, marketing assistance, publishing help and additional resources” to help protect everyone who’s been affected by the recent book bans. The libations flowed freely as guests also congratulated JAY-Z for the grand opening of “The Book of Hov” exhibit at the Brooklyn Public Library. Stylishly dressed guests included DJ Khaled, Lil Uzi Vert, Meek Mill, Babyface (who performed), Yo Gotti, his girl Angela Simmons, Miguel,



Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Shawn Carter Foundation Dr. Gloria Carter speaks at Black Tie Gala

Tinashe, A\$AP Ferg, Saint Jhn and Angie Martinez. Hollywood was also in the house with Chazz Palminteri along with numerous celebrity athletes including MLB All-Star Robinson Cano and NFL legend Dez Bryant. The beautiful and funny Regina Hall hosted the event, and a fabulous time was had by all who attended this fabulous party with a purpose! (Photos by Getty Images)



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By Don Thomas

The Louis Armstrong House Museum celebrates 80th anniversary with new center in Corona, Queens

The Louis Armstrong House Museum in Corona, Queens, opened its new state-of-the-art building, on Thursday, July 6, 2023, preserving and expanding the legacy and ideals of America's first Black popular music icon. Armstrong's values of artistic excellence, education and community will be fostered in Here to Stay, the new exhibition, curated by Award-Winning Pianist/Composer and Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz, Jason Moran. Grounded in the new building design by Caples Jefferson Architects, the Center will be a permanent home for the 60,000-piece Louis Armstrong Archive (the world's largest for a jazz musician) and a 75-seat venue offering performances, lectures, films, and educational experiences.

"This is a landmark moment for the Louis Armstrong House Museum," said Regina Bain executive director. "Standing on the shoulders of the jazz and community greats who have come before us, the new Louis Armstrong Center invites today's musicians, neighbors, and global fans to discover Louis and Lucille Armstrong's story from a new perspective. We will bring the Armstrongs' unique archives alive through new interactive events. And we will ensure that music once again rings out on 107th Street through



Louis Armstrong with community youth (Archives photo)



The new Louis Armstrong Center in Corona, Queens (Photo: Albert Vercerka/ESTO)

groundbreaking programs in collaboration with emerging artists and contemporary icons."

The Louis Armstrong Center will become a new international destination celebrating Armstrong's distinctive role in African-Diaspora history and vitality, offering year-round exhibitions, performances, readings, lectures, and screenings through an array of public programs for all ages. With longstanding partners Queens College and the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, and with a growing list of members, supporters and programmatic collaborators, the museum and center will become a Queens-based hub for inspiration and learning, economic development and tourism—from New Yorkers to the world.

The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation donated the Armstrong archives in the 1980s and provided the funds to purchase the lot on which the new Center sits. CUNY and Queens College officials, working with state and city legislators and executive offices, led the advocacy for the funding of the \$26 million building across the street from the original Armstrong home.

Funds were awarded by the Office of the Governor, the New York State Senate, New York State Assembly, Office of the New York City Mayor, Office of the Queens Borough President, and the New York City Council.

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) led the construction project. The staff and board of the museum for the past 15 years, including former Director, Michael Cogswell, worked tirelessly to ensure the new building's success.

The opening of the Center has spurred the creation of new programming. The Museum is announcing the upcoming season of its groundbreaking Armstrong Now, which will feature the creation and debut of new works by Esperanza Spalding, Amyra León and Antonio Brown. Armstrong Now contextualizes Louis Armstrong's immense contributions in a contemporary era and provides established and emerging artists with a platform to create new work inspired by Armstrong's legacy, as well as the vast collection of artifacts and documents in the Armstrong archives.

Sports



**Andrew
Rosario,
Sports
Editor**



First Father and Son To Win The Home Run Derby
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

Everyone Loves The Long Ball

By Matthew Kennedy

This year's Home Run Derby was one of the most entertaining in recent memory. Records were shattered and the contest was close up until the final swings. Vladimir Guerrero Jr. of the Blue Jays has now joined his father, Vlad Sr., as a Home Run Derby Champion, with his victory this past weekend.

Vlad Jr., who had the third lowest regular season home run total out of the 8 contestants, smashed a total of 72 dingers. Surprisingly, this total is less than his record-setting 91 homers in the 2019 Home-Run Derby, where he was ultimately defeated in the final round by 2x Derby Champion, Pete Alonso.

Seattle's own Julio Rodriguez dispatched Alonso in the first round, hitting a record-breaking 41 homers in one round. The previous record holder was none other than Vlad Jr. himself, who

hit 40 bambinos in 2019. Vlad Jr. would go on to defeat Rodriguez in the semifinals by one home run in a close round. The Toronto slugger hit 5 440+ foot homers in the semifinal round alone, with 2 exceeding 450 feet.

Randy Arozarena of the Rays had an impressive run, defeating the 4th seeded Adolis Garcia in the 1st round and 1st seeded Roberts Jr. in the semifinals. Garcia's pitcher had trouble delivering hittable pitches and was criticized for hurting his hitter's chances.

In the final round, Vlad Jr. defeated Arozarena to win the Derby. He crushed 14 homers in the final 1:13 of regulation time. His hardest hit homer was a whopping 112 MPH. Vlad Jr. looks to carry this momentum into the last 60 or so games of the season, where he has been struggling offensively and power wise. His Blue Jays sit at 3rd place in the toughest division in the MLB.

Alcaraz Showed Why He's #1

By Andrew Rosario

It will go down as one of the greatest Grand Slam Final Championships in tournament history. It will go down as the best Wimbledon Final as well. #1 ranked and 20-year-old Carlos Alcaraz from Spain took on #2 ranked and 36-year-old Novak Djokovic from Serbia last Sunday in a match that lasted close to 5-hours. In the end, the youngster from outlasted the seasoned veteran in 5 sets 1-6, 7-6 (8-6 in the tie breaker) 6-1, 3-6 and 6-4. Djokovic had won the first 2 grand slams to start year boosting his Grand Slam total to 23. Alcaraz is coming off winning the US Open last year playing in his second major finals and first this year. The Joker had not lost at Center Court in 10 years and was looking for his 5th consecutive championship as well as his record tying 8th overall at the All-England Club. Neither would be accomplished as Alcaraz overcame a rough first set before righting himself in the second set.



Alcaraz 3rd Youngest Man To Win Wimbledon
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

Facing going down 2-sets to nothing, Alcaraz used a 32-points, to tie the match at one which lasted 25-minutes. Said the Spaniard afterward about winning the tie

breaker, "if I would have lost that set, probably I couldn't lift the trophy. I probably could have lost in three sets. Alcaraz cruised in the 3rd set before Djokovic settled down to tie the match at four.

The 5th and final set was tied at 4 before Alcaraz would win the last 2 games as Djokovic last shot went into the net with Alcaraz falling to the grass recognizing that we won the championship. The Joker felt his back hand was his downfall. "The backhands kind of let me down," he would say afterwards.

Carlos Alcaraz became the third youngest man to win the grass court major in the open era which started in 1968. He joined Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg in that elite group.

On the victory he said, "we made great rallies, great points. It was a long, long match. Long sets. It was the mental part that allowed me to stay in there."

Next stop for both players will be the US Open in New York beginning in late August where Djokovic will look to get revenge against the defending champion. They will be hard pressed to match what they did last Sunday.



The Joker Comes Up Short
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

NL Snaps All Star Losing Streak

By Matthew Kennedy

This year's MLB All-Star Game was quite the nail biter, with the NL All-Stars finally triumphing over the AL for the first time in a decade, in a score of 3-2.

Sadly, the boys from New York did not have much of a presence, as only a combined 3 players from the Yankees and Mets were selected to represent their respective leagues. And on top of that, reigning AL MVP Aaron Judge, who has been sidelined by a toe injury, did not play. So, New York was left with one player apiece: The Yanks' ace, Gerrit Cole, and the Mets' top slugger, Pete Alonso.

Alonso, who got off to a hot start this season, has been struggling as of late since coming back from

a wrist injury, going 0-10 in

New York's series against San Diego. He went 0-2 in the All-Star showdown, striking out both times in two disappointing at-bats.

Gerrit Cole was chosen by the AL's manager, Dusty Baker, to start the game, a good choice by the former World Series winning manager. Cole did his job, pitching a 1-2-3 1st inning with ease, but was not seen for the rest of the day.

Other than that, there isn't anything else to say about the Yankees or Mets for this game. But other All-Stars made sure to make it a memorable game. Yandy Diaz of the Rays gave the AL the early lead with a 383 foot solo homer off Max Keller in the 2nd.

But it was the other Diaz, Elias Diaz, that had the biggest moment. Diaz sealed the deal for the NL with a come-from-behind,

go-ahead homer off Felix Bautista, who recorded the loss. Diaz's timely home run earned him the All-Star Game MVP, becoming the first Rockies player ever to win the award.

Atlanta's Sean Casey became the first catcher with a caught stealing in an All-Star Game since 2011, when he threw out Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena in the 1st. Crazy enough, Luis Arraez of the Marlins was thrown out by Texas' Jonah Heim in the 4th, also while trying to steal 2nd base.

Arraez, who has been absolutely incredible through 86 games, recorded 2 hits and an RBI in the 4th to help lift the NL over the AL. Arraez is having one of the greatest contact hitting seasons of all time, posting a godly .383 average and leading the NL in hits. The player with the second best average in



Diaz HR Propels NL All Stars
Photo: Special to the Philadelphia Observer

the NL is a full .052 points lower, at .331.

If Arraez can keep his average at .380 or above, it would be the first time since 1994, when Tony Gwynn hit .394, that a player has

done so. Since the end of WWII there have only been four instances when a player has batted .380 or higher. Arraez is looking to join Ted Williams, George Brett, and Gwynn in this elite club.